

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. In this listing of claims, claim 1, 3 and 5 have been amended.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 3 further comprising periodically reversing the direction of feed flow through the module such that water to be filtered flows into the module outlet ~~of the module~~ and retentate flows out of the module feed inlet ~~of the module~~.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A filtration process to remove hardness comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a membrane module comprising a module feed inlet, a module outlet, a permeate outlet, a feed/retentate path between the module feed inlet and the module outlet having a plurality of successive stages and of one or more membranes having a hardness rejection of at least 75% and an initial permeability greater than 0.1 gfd/psi separating the feed-retentate path from the permeate outlet;

(b) feeding feed water into the module feed inlet to flow feed water through the module in a single pass;

- (c) withdrawing a retentate from the module outlet; and,
- (d) withdrawing a permeate from the permeate outlet,

wherein the minimum feed/retentate velocity in any of the stages is between about 0.15 and 0.6 ft/s.

4. (Original) The process of claim 3 wherein minimum feed/retentate velocity in any of the stages is between about 0.2 and 0.3 ft/s.

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 3 further comprising adding carbon dioxide to the feed water before the feed water enters the module feed inlet~~lumens of the hollow fiber membranes~~.

6. (Original) The process of claim 5 wherein the carbon dioxide is added continuously to the feed water in amounts such that the Langelier Index is zero or slightly negative.

7. (Original) The process of claim 5 wherein the carbon dioxide is added to the feed water from time to time at times when the need for permeate is low and permeate is either not produced while carbon dioxide is added to the feed or permeate produced while carbon dioxide is added to the feed is discarded.

8. (Original) The process of claim 5 further comprising periodically reversing the direction of feed flow through the module and adding carbon

dioxide to the water to be filtered while the water to be filtered flows into the module in a reverse direction.

9. (Original) The process of claim 1 further comprising adding carbon dioxide to the water to be filtered while the water to be filtered flows into the module in a reverse direction.

10–13 (Cancelled)

14. (New) The process of claim 3 wherein the feed water is fed to the module feed inlet at a pressure of between 40 and 200 psi.

15. (New) The process of claim 3 wherein the feed water is fed to the module feed inlet at a pressure of between 60 and 150 psi.